Claims

We claim:

1. A method for affecting a patient's lymphatic system comprising identifying a patient who requires treatment for the lymphatic system; and administering to the patient an effective amount of a cysteamine compound to improve the patient's immunological response.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the affected lymphatic system is selected from the group consisting of: lymphatic organs, mucosa membranes, goblet cells, and lymphocytes.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the lymphatic organs are selected from the group consisting of a thymus or a spleen, wherein the method retards the deterioration in lymphatic organ mass.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the lymphatic organs are selected from the group consisting of a thymus or spleen, wherein the method maintains lymphatic organ mass.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the affected lymphatic system is mucosa membranes, wherein the method increases growth in villi along the mucosa membranes.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the affected lymphatic system is goblet cells, wherein the method increases goblet cell activity.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the affected lymphatic system is the lymphocytes, wherein the method enhances lymphocyte activity.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said cysteamine compound is selected from the group consisting of cysteamine, cysteamine salts, prodrugs of cysteamine,

analogs of cysteamine, derivatives of cysteamine, conjugates of cysteamine, and metabolites of cysteamine.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said cysteamine salt is cysteamine hydrochloride or cysteamine phosphate.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said cysteamine compound is taken orally, parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, transdermally, via buccal route, subcutaneously, or via suppository.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of concurrently administering to the patient at least one additional therapeutic agent.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of corticosteroids; cytotoxic drugs; non-cytotoxic drugs; nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; COX-2 inhibitors; antimalarials; plasma exchange; high-dose ivIg therapy; intravenous gamma globulin; and monoclonal antibody (moAb) therapy.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: prednisone; hydrocortisone; azathioprine; cyclophosphamide; mycophenolate mofetil; methotrexate; ciclosporin; tacrolimus; ibuprofen; naproxen; celecoxib; rofecoxib; and hydroxychloroquine.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of diagnosing a patient with an immunological disorder.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 0.1 to 3,000 mg/kg of body weight or an equivalent molar quantity.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the effective amount of the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 1 mg/kg of body weight to 30 mg/kg of body weight of the cysteamine compound or an equivalent molar quantity.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the effective amount of the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 4 mg/kg of body weight to 18 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine hydrochloride, or an equivalent molar quantity thereof.

18. A method for treating stress in a patient comprising identifying in the patient any one or more of the following: (a) symptoms of stress; (b) complications associated with stress; and (c) indications that the person is at-risk for stress; and administering to the patient an effective amount of a cysteamine compound.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said cysteamine compound is selected from the group consisting of cysteamine, cysteamine salts, prodrugs of cysteamine, analogs of cysteamine, derivatives of cysteamine, conjugates of cysteamine, and metabolites of cysteamine.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said cysteamine salt is cysteamine hydrochloride or cysteamine phosphate.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said cysteamine compound is taken orally, parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, transdermally, via buccal route, subcutaneously, or via suppository.

22. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of concurrently administering a therapeutic agent with the cysteamine compound, wherein the therapeutic agent is a therapy used to treat stress.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the therapy is selected from the group consisting of counseling; psychotherapy; exercise; meditation; and massage therapy.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the effective amount of the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 0.1 to 3,000 mg/kg of body weight or an equivalent molar quantity.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 1 mg/kg of body weight to 30 mg/kg of body weight of the cysteamine compound or an equivalent molar quantity.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 4 mg/kg of body weight to 18 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine hydrochloride, or an equivalent molar quantity thereof.